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AMENDMENTS IN THE DRAWINGS:

Fig. 1 is amended to include the legend – Prior Art --.

Appropriate Replacement Sheet(s) for the amended drawings are submitted herewith.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-11, 14 and 15 are now pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 11 and 15 have been amended herein. Claims 12 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner initially objects to the drawings as failing to include a legend such as "Prior Art" in Fig. 1. In response, applicants have amended Fig. 1 to include such a legend. Consequently, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

II. OBJECTION TO CLAIM 6

The Examiner objects to claim 6 based on a typographical error. Applicants have amended claim 6 in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 8 AND 11-12 UNDER 35 USC §112, 2nd ¶

Claims 8 and 11-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Regarding claims 8 and 11, the Examiner indicates that the limitation "mounting" lacks antecedent basis. With respect to claim 8, applicants have amended the claim to refer to the "carrier element" recited in claim 1 so as to have proper antecedent basis. As for claim 11, the claim as amended no longer refers to "mounting".

Regarding claims 11 and 12, the Examiner indicates that there is no antecedent basis for the "guide arm". Claim 11 depends from claim 1 which, as amended, now refers to a "guide arm". Therefore, proper antecedent basis is now believed to be present. Claim 12 has been canceled, and thus the rejection of claim 12 is rendered moot.

Also regarding claim 11, the Examiner indicates that there is no antecedent basis for "first and/or second linear axle". Such feature has been removed from claim 11 via

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this amendment. Accordingly, the rejection is now moot.

In view of the above amendments and comments, applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 and 11-12 are clear and definite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 8 AND 10 UNDER 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 1-4, 8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) based on *Gemez*. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

i. Amendments to Claim 1

Claim 1, as amended, defines an installation for coating a workpiece with powder in accordance with the present invention.

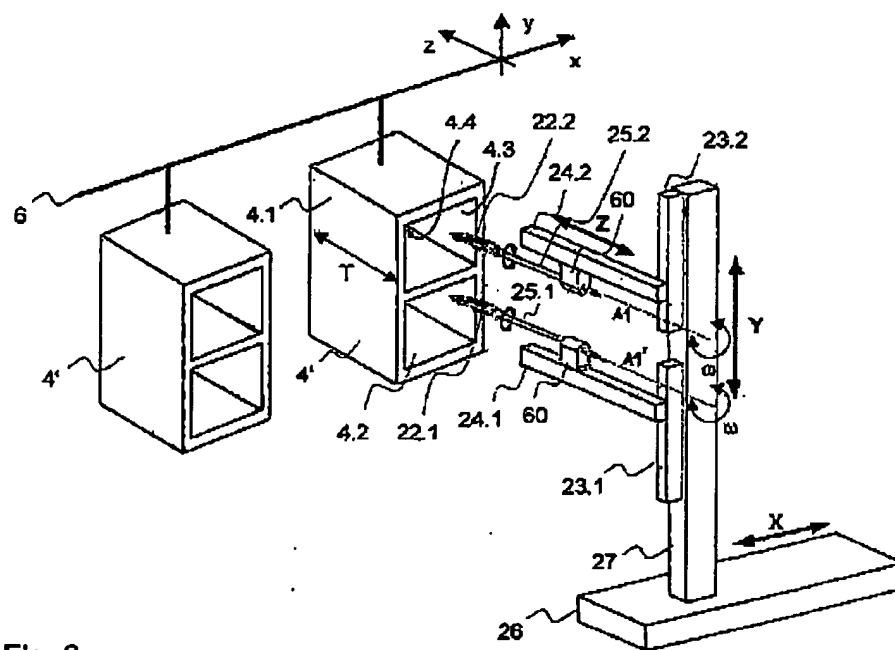


Fig. 2 of Present Application

Referring, for example, to Fig. 2 of the present application (reproduced above), the installation includes a first powder spray device (22.1) with a first principal spraying

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direction (A2, Figs. 3-4), wherein the first powder spray device (22.1) is supported in such a manner as to capable of being rotated with respect to a first carrier element (24.1, 60), about a first rotation axis (A1') and the first principal spraying direction (A2) differs from the first rotation axis (A1'). In addition, there is provided a second powder spray device (22.2) with a second principal spraying direction (A2). The second powder spray device (22.2) is supported in such a manner as to capable of being rotated with respect to a second carrier element (24.2, 60), about a second rotation axis (A1) and the second principal spraying direction (A2) differs from the second rotation axis (A1). A guide arm (27) is provided, to which the carrier elements (24.1, 24.2, 60) are attached, and the powder spray devices (22.1, 22.2) are separately translatable movable.

ii. Gernez

Gernez describes a power depositing installation having a power-depositing unit 41 placed beneath an opening so that hollow parts vertically fit over the unit as they pass through the opening of the cage. However, *Gernez* does not teach or suggest first and second powder spray devices with principal spraying directions differing from those of their respective axes of rotation, and which are separately translatable movable as recited in amended claim 1.

As is exemplified in Fig. 2 of the present application, the present invention provides an installation in which it is easier to coat different workpieces with different shapes, particularly if the workpiece has hollows as shown in Fig. 2. *Gernez* does not teach or suggest such separately translatable movable first and second powder spray devices as recited in amended claim 1. Nor does *Gernez* teach or suggest such advantages associated with such a construction.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 together with claims 2-4, 8 and 10 is respectfully requested.

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V. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-8 AND 10-15 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 1-8 and 10-15 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Shutic et al.* in view of *Gernez*. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Shutic et al. does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in *Gernez*. Specifically, *Shutic et al.* also does not teach or suggest separately translatable movable first and second powder spray devices as recited in amended claim 1. Nor does *Shutic et al.* teach or suggest the above-discussed advantages associated with such a construction.

For example, assume the workpiece with hollows as shown in Fig. 2 of the present application had a plain area in the lower section and a hollow in the upper section. The spray device of *Shutic et al.*, shown in Fig. 4, would not be able to coat the workpiece satisfactorily. The reason is that the powder spray guns in *Shutic et al.* can only be moved in common and are not separately translatable movable as recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-8 and 10-15 is respectfully requested.

VI. REJECTION OF CLAIM 9 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Shutic et al.* in view of *Gernez* and further in view of *An*. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Claim 9 depends indirectly from claim 1, and can be distinguished over the teachings of *Shutic et al.* and *Gernez* for at least the same reasons expressed above. Moreover, *An* does not make up for the deficiencies in *Shutic et al.* and *Gernez*. As a result, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 9 is also respectfully requested.

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VII. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1-11 and 14-15 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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